

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figure 7.

The attached "Replacement Sheet" which includes Figures 7, replaces the original sheet including Figure 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Figure 7 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached a revised drawing for the Examiner's approval. Applicant notes that, as described in the specification and shown in the embodiment of Figure 7, the pouring basin 102, sprue 103, and gate 80 are formed solely on one side of the mold. As such, the amendment requested by the Office Action is improper.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various references. In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's attention is directed to amended independent Claims 1 and 24, which have been amended to clarify that the pouring basin is a separate structure from the cavity. The Office Action states that the "aperture is interpreted as the same structure as the gate between the pouring basin and the cavity." Applicant respectfully traverses this interpretation. As previously mentioned, the J-shaped surface of Lebold is a portion of the mold cavity and not part of a separate pouring basing. It is improper

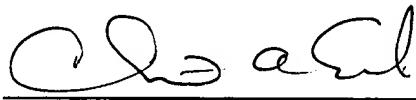
to interpret the gate 48 of Lebold as being defined "between" and "fluidly coupling" the pouring basin and the casting cavity as claimed in Claims 1 and 24.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1243.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Jan 20 - 2004

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